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CIA-Mafia link known to RFK, ex-agent says

Washington (AP)—The CIA warned Robert F. Kennedy in 1962, when he was attorney general, that two Mafia figures under investigation by the Justice Department had been involved in an agency plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, a former high agency official said yesterday.

"Mr. Kennedy said, 'The next time you deal with the Mafia come to me first,' " the official said, "but he didn't voice any other objection."

The official, who asked that his name not be used, said Mr. Kennedy was informed of the assassination plot after the Central Intelligence Agency learned that the two alleged

Mafia figures involved, Sam Giancana and John Roselli, were the targets of a Justice Department probe.

"We gave Kennedy the facts and said, 'Here's the problem,' " he said, explaining that the CIA was concerned that either Roselli or Giancana would reveal the plot against Premier Castro in an effort to avoid prosecution.

The official added he did not know what effect the information had on subsequent Justice Department efforts to prosecute Giancana and Roselli.

Giancana, a reputed Chicago rackets chief, was sentenced to one year in jail for refusing to answer questions before a federal grand jury in 1964.

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CASTRO, Fidel

~~ORG~~ ORG1 MAFIA

KENNEDY, Robert